

Miss Effie Nelson
524 Belden Avenue
Chicago 14, Illinois
April 24, 1945

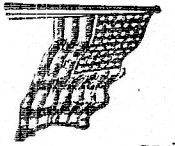
DEAR JAMES:

AFTER NOT REPLYING TO YOUR FRIENDLY LETTER WRITTEN SOME TIME AGO, PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T WRITE NOW EITHER WHEN I WANT SOMETHING FROM YOU, BUT YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHOSE NAME I KNOW WHO IS IN THE SAME COMPANY AS MY BROTHER WALTER. WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT WALLIE HAS BEEN MISSING IN ACTION SINCE MARCH 19. WE ARE ALL HEARTBROKEN, AND I THOUGHT POSSIBLY YOU MIGHT KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND COULD AND WOULD TELL US OF THEM. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING AT ALL EXCEPT THE ROUTINE GOVERNMENT MESSAGE, ALTHOUGH WE THOUGHT POSSIBLY HIS CHAPLAIN MIGHT WRITE AND GIVE US WHAT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. IF YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO WRITE, OR IF SUCH A MESSAGE FROM YOU WOULD BE CENSORED, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ^{ASK} HIS CHAPLAIN TO DO IT? OR PERHAPS YOU KNOW HIS BUDDY JOE WHOM HE MENTIONED MANY TIMES AND WOULD ASK HIM TO WRITE TO ME.

IT MAY BE PRESUMPTIOUS OF ME TO ASK THIS WHEN I KNOW YOU ARE VERY BUSY, BUT I AM HOPING YOU WILL HAVE A FEW MINUTES SOME TIME WHEN YOU CAN WRITE ME A NOTE. WE ARE ALL HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL SOON GET SOME DEFINITE WORD. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, THE UNCERTAINTY IS HARD TO BEAR, ESPECIALLY FOR MOTHER, AND SOME WORD FROM YOU OF WHAT YOU MAY KNOW OR CAN FIND OUT WOULD BE APPRECIATED MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ON ME. I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK, AND GOD BLESS YOU.

SINCERELY,



Dear friend

May 5, 45

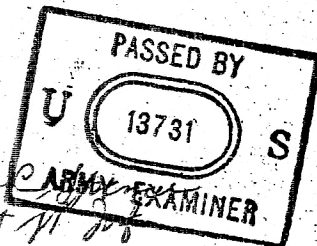
I am sure your year had to
answer my letter like this
I really don't know so much
about it. but I am sure he is
alive and well. you ~~about~~
should be hearing from him soon.
I could see the Chaplain for you
but I am sure he could tell
you about the same. I would
not worry so much. If I ever
hear anything more I will
let you know.
a friend. James.

Post James A. Page 35838992
Co. I. 132nd Inf.

A.P.O. 34 96 P.M. NEW YORK, N.Y.
34th INFANTRY DIVISION



Miss Effie Nelson
524 Belden Avenue
Chicago Illinois



April 19, 1945

HI, CANG

This is going to be a quick one for I have work stacked in front of me but just want to give you the latest -

FLASH - Glenn and Vic have gotten together on Saipan... Millie and Mother received the good news Tuesday and 'phoned it to us... They had gotten a letter from Vic... I'm sorry not to have details but I didn't talk to them myself... I don't know how long Glenn remained there, if at all, but even if it was only for a short time, I'm thrilled to death for them. I can only imagine how happy it must have made Vic to see a face from home. If more details become available, will forward them to you pronto.

Had a lovely letter from our new in-law, Jeane, and she enclosed a copy of their marriage ceremony which I hope to recopy and send on to you with this letter. Know you will enjoy it too. Jeane wrote that she is catching up on her sleep since Glenn left and that amused me remembering what a night owl he used to be. Sleeping was something to do when he couldn't do anything else. It sounds like he hasn't changed a bit in that respect. Jeane also said that they had had pictures taken and that she would send them on later. I'm eager to know if my mental picture of her is anywhere near accurate.

Hank writes that he wants a picture of Jeane so he can let Glenn know if she rates his approval, so somebody out on the west coast had better get busy with a candid camera so we can send some snaps to the boys. How about that, Troy? We were glad to hear that you haven't lost contact with that woman in Belgium, Hank, who has been so kind. In case the others reading this don't understand what I'm talking about, Hank met some civilian people in Belgium who have relatives in Lake Forest. As they are not permitted to write their people here, Hank has been corresponding with her family for her and relaying messages, etc. The Belgian woman is very grateful to Hank and has done some very nice things for him to reciprocate

---Will try to finish tomorrow.

They have kept me pretty busy today so I'll just have time to say I meant well - It is 4:15 and quitting time very soon.

I hope you had a nice birthday yesterday, Hank. May it be the last one you will spend away from home. It was Don Ellinwood's the day before yours, so you two should have gotten together. He was 29 and you were 30; am I right this year? Believe I said you were 30 last year and you corrected me on it.

Mother was down for the weekend, last Saturday and Sunday. We spent a quiet time but got lots of good rest. Mom has gained a few pounds and looks very well, but I know you will find her changed somewhat when you come home. She is beginning to show her age a little... (Now I can't send her a copy of this letter. She knows it, but one doesn't have to tell her so point blank, I guess.)

Gave another pint of blood to the Red Cross yesterday and feel fine today too. Arta also. Next time I become a member of the gallon club - eight pints. Little as it is, it helps to make me feel I am doing my bit to get the damn war over sooner.

Scuttlebut: The story is going around about a certain chaplain who, on his first meal aboard an aircraft carrier, lowered his head for a few words of grace. When he looked up the waiter asked what he wanted for dessert.

All my love to you -

Enclosed
with # 47
April 23, 1945

Glenn wrote to Effie from "Somewhere in the Pacific" on April 3:

"First of all I had better say that if I don't see Vic in the very near future it will be more than a surprise to me. You remember where you said he was in the latest letters before I left; well, that's where I'm headed and expect to be there shortly....The sun is really beating down, the sea is calm, and everything is WARM...The perspiration is pouring off my brow but I must get some letters written as we're drawing close to a post-box and I know those on the receiving end are just about out of patience with me...I just blame it all on love, a justification for all actions."

Vic wrote to Mother on April 10:

"Today has been the biggest day for me and the happiest since I came overseas. Who should walk in on me this afternoon to my delight but Glenn. It sure is a treat. To top it off, I received five letters from Milly telling all the news from home so we are having a very enjoyable chat. He got here about one o'clock this noon and is going to stay till morning. We sat around and talked for a couple of hours and then I got a jeep and took him for a ride around the island. He is used to living aboard a ship so now he is getting a little idea how it is to rough it. We are pretty well set up here now and live quite comfortably compared to what it was when we first came to one of these islands. Our food has been excellent since we had a change in command. Don't know how Glenn is going to feel in the morning after sleeping on a cot in a tent, being as he is used to sleeping on a spring bed and not long ago he was with the girl of his dreams...he will find it quite different, but for one night I am sure he won't mind. It is two years now since I slept in a comfortable bed, and if I must, I will do it two more, but I won't like it....Glenn has given me all the news about Evelyn and Marvin. It sure is sweet music to my ears, but it makes me want to see them more than ever. I hope to see you all by Christmas or before but only time will tell. I hope it is not too long before the whole family can have a reunion so we can get acquainted with all these new sisters-in-law. From the description Glenn gives of Jeane, she is the only girl in the world and they are very happy."

Mother wrote to Nina -

"Tuesday night Nora came home from school and asked if she could go to a formal dance the middle of May. I looked maybe a little bit surprised and she said all her girl friends were going, so I said Yes. It is \$1.25 a ticket, at the Masonic Lodge, for the Junior Misses. She will wear the yellow dress that Mary wore at Henry's wedding. It fits her perfectly. Will buy her white pumps. It is a ~~kind~~ nice affair so will see that she looks cute. The baby is growing up. She must bring a boy friend, so she said 'He'd better send me a corsage'. Nothing small about her."

Your Chicago transmitter - *ef*

OUR MARRIAGE CEREMONY

CHAPLAIN: "Wilt thou, Glenn, have this woman as thy wedded wife, to live together in so far as the Bureau of Naval Personnel will allow: Wilt thou love her, comfort, honor and keep her, take her to the movies and come home promptly on all 48's?"

GLENN: "I will."

CHAPLAIN: "Wilt thou, Jeane, take this Merchant Marine as thy wedded husband, bearing in mind liberty hours, ship schedules, restrictions, watches, sudden orders, uncertain mail conditions and various other problems of Service life: Wilt thou obey him, and love, honor and wait for him to learn to wash, fold and press his uniforms?"

JEANE: "I will."

GLENN: "I, Glenn, take thee, Jeane, as my wedded wife from 1700 to 0730, as far as permitted by my commanding officer, liberty hours, subject to change without notice, for better or worse, for earlier or later, and I promise to write at least once a week."

JEANE: "I, Jeane, take thee, Glenn, as my wedded husband, subject to the orders of the officer of the deck, changing residence whenever the ship moves, to have and to hold as long as the allotment comes through regularly, and there I give thee my troth."

CHAPLAIN: "Then let no man put asunder these whom God and the Bureau of Naval Personnel have wrought together. By virtue of the authority in Navy regulations of the Bureau of Personnel Manuel and the latest of bulletins from the Bureau of Personnel concerning matrimony, you are now man and wife.

By direction of the Commanding Officer."

May 10, 1945

Hello Honey -

So much big news in the past couple of weeks has made the time fly so quickly that I can't believe it is over two weeks since I last wrote to you. Please forgive me.

After all the rumors of the war's end, it has finally been officially announced and confirmed that the war in Europe ~~is~~ came to an end at 12:01 a.m. May 9, 1945. You have no doubt heard reports on how we took it here in the States just as we have had reports on how happy you all were. It was expected that the people here might start riots in their celebrations and precautions were taken to protect plate glass windows all around the city, but the people took the news pretty soberly. Not that they weren't happy...but we do realize that there is still a big job to be done in the Pacific. Some of the fellows in Europe will be given furloughs in the States and some will even rate discharges, but a great many will probably be shifted to the Pacific. Naturally, we are all hoping that our boys will get home. The churches everywhere held services, and if there is room in the envelope, will enclose a copy of the special service held in the church I attended. Although we reported for work as usual Tuesday morning, after the President had spoken we were dismissed for the day.

Frances Seibert, 1st Lt., U.S.M.C.
My new roommate, being in the Armed Services, had to work as usual and it was her day to be spent at Great Lakes. When she heard I had the day off, she invited me to come out late in the afternoon to meet her. I did and had a most enjoyable time. She met me at the Main Gate with a station wagon and a chauffeur (a Marine) and they drove all around the grounds pointing out the various places of interest. The base is so large now that it is like an entire city. Then we went up to the Officers' Club where I met a lot of her friends with whom we had a few cocktails and dinner. Oh boy....you never saw so many scrumptious men in uniform!!...or should I say "wolves"? As the hospital is very nearby, there were many fellows there who were casualties, which served to remind one of the horrible cost of it all. We took a late train home and the next day we were both pretty weary, but today....back on the beam.

I have had nice long letters from Eva lately. That new system she has on letter writing seems to have benefited me. She is feeling very well, is gaining weight steadily, but keeping herself in trim. Troy has finally been issued a ration book and permitted to eat off the Post. Did you realize they celebrated their 2nd wedding anniversary May 1? Troy's brother Rudy is at a camp in Shoemaker, Calif., about 30 miles from Frisco and he has been spending some time with them. Evelyn also wrote that Glenn reports he is on his way home...only 7 weeks since he left the States. (Mar. 18 to be exact). (After all this time, I guess it is OK that I now reveal this vital info., isn't it Glenn?) If he should get in, I doubt very much that he would be entitled to very much leave, but it would be nice for him and Jeane.

Nina got a long letter from Hank yesterday saying that he had moved into German territory but that they expected everything would be over soon. I can't remember what else he said...she read it to me on the 'phone.

The biggest news on the home front, Racine, is that "Roy has quit drinking... even beer". Nora's class championship in gym was won by her team so she received a big white "W" to be worn on a collegiate sweater (purple). She

wrote me that the sweaters cost \$10 so she said she was going to get a cardigan instead. She was thrilled to receive this award, and she is doubly thrilled at the prospect of going to a formal dance the 19th of this month.

Friday night Horlick is holding its annual Spring Concert in which Mary will participate, so as this is the weekend I plan to be home, am going early Friday and attend the concert with Mom. Will spend Saturday visiting my in-laws and Sunday with Mother for that is her day.

Mary Jensen took the family down to the Ivy House for dinner on the 22nd of April and then they all went down to Waukegan for the afternoon to see the Heikkalas. Troy's mother was visiting her daughters there. They had a very nice day.

I don't know whether I dare say this or not for fear it may be only wishful thinking... but, Millie has heard of a very large group of SeaBees arriving in California...from the area where Vic was stationed... and as she hasn't heard from him for three weeks.....could it be possible that he is one of them? Hold your breath and cross your fingers.

When I talked to mother Tuesday she said Shirley had been off work with a very bad throat. Sure hope she is feeling OK again. This is bad weather to shake off a cold.

Benjamin Franklin said it: "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

An old, old story: "A lark, singing in the thin air of the high heavens, suddenly saw a traveller down on earth with a mysterious little box, and he folded his wings and plummeted down to satisfy his curiosity. "What have you in your little box?" he asked the man. "Worms," replied the man. "Are they for sale?" the lark inquired. "Yes, and very cheap; the price is only one feather."The lark looked at his feathers and thought, "I have a million feathers, most of them very small. One will never be missed. Here is a chance to get a good dinner with very little effort." So he picked out a most inconspicuous, and a very wee feather, pulled it, and gave it to the man. True, it hurt quite a bit, for he was not used to pulling feathers, but the worm was fat and the hurt was soon gone. He found, too, that he could fly as high and as far as ever.

The next day, he saw the man again, and once more he exchanged a feather for a worm. Still he soared the thin upper air, flying as expertly as ever. A pretty soft way of getting one's worms!

Well, you are ahead of us by now. You know that the next day and the next and the next he bought another worm, and lost another feather. You know that each feather seemed to hurt less and less. You know that flying got more and more difficult, until one day, after the loss of a particular primary feather, he suddenly found he could not reach the azure blue; and he was forced to seek his food in the streets with the gutter sparrows. His song, too, once glorious, was stilled, for his chagrin at his fallen state was more than he could bear. He had nothing to sing about.....Thus, do unworthy habits possess us. First, painfully, then more easily, until at last we find ourselves stipped of all that causes us to soar and sing. Even our spirits are as earth-bound as our bodies."

Love from your "copying philosopher" -

May 13, 1943

Hello, darlings -

This is Friday, pay day, and a busy day, too, so this must be a quickie. Just want you to know I think of you and love you, too.

First of all, there is no further news regarding the subject that is probably uppermost in our minds. Keep on praying and don't give up.

We had letters from Hank and Vic this week -

Vic reports the kind of weather we have been having around here.. rain and more rain. We have had 14 days of rain out of 18 this month. About his visit with Glenn he says "Enjoyed a few good meals aboard his ship and also his comfortable bed for one night. That was a real treat." He said he has moved and for your information, he is now on OKINAWA.... that hell on earth. Incidentally, Vic, Able is there, too, in the 6th Marine Division. Will try to give you more details on his address and look him up if you can. After hearing of the heavy casualties over there I am a bit worried about him. He says "I am in good health and in due time you will learn more about where I am (I learned from Millie that he had arrived at O.). We have a lot of work to do and we will get it done, and before long the Japs will know the 97th is here.".... "I saw a picture of Jeans and I think she will meet with Henry's approval."

This letter was written on May 8 and arrived here the 15th...wonderful service.

A letter from Hank written on the 6th arrived yesterday. He said things were drawing to a close over there but that there will be a great deal of work to be done ~~xxxx~~ after the surrender for they would have to occupy and control the country. But he said "I still think there is hopes of getting home this year."..."I have seen the Remagen Bridge (over the Rhine) and to us it is just another bridge in the Rhine but to many it will never be forgotten."..."The weather has been miserable here the past ten days...cold and wet."..."By the time you get this it will be 18~~th~~ months since we sailed away from the States."..."I'm in the best of health and not in need of a thing."..."Love to all."

They were nice long letters, and we sure enjoyed them.

Spent last weekend at home and it was a busy one. Friday night we went to the concert at Horlick and it was very good. Mary sang in the Lorelei and also played her violin...I mean she played her teacher's violin for one of her strings broke at the last minute. It is an instrument that cost well over \$1000 and she was terribly worried she would do something to injure it.....After the concert Mom and I and Millie and a couple of other gals went down and had fish and beer. Millie drank 7-up, Mom had one glass, and I had 3. It was Miller's and very good, and one I drank for Hank and the other for Vic...the first one, of course, was for me. Saturday we kibitzed all day and in the evening Mom visited out at Damm's and Millie, Chuckie and I went to a movie (Keys of the Kingdom) and then over to the Gourmet for a sandwich. We put Chuckie in a cab and Millie and I walked home...and was I fagged out. Sunday being Mother's day, she was kept on the go....first to church with all her girls, then Mrs. Fraegin drove her out to the cemetery...then over to Grau's with me for they were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary...then over to Millie's to take a few pictures...and finally to Roy's to see their new bedroom suite. She looked so nice - wore her blue linen suit, her "grape" hat, and blue coat, and she had a lovely corsage from Vic. She has gained a little weight and looks super. Roy looks very well and is still on the wagon. In fact, everyone looked good. Shirley is much better after her throat infection but tires easily and needs lots of rest.

No more room, honeys and also have run out of time...

Lovingly -

May 22, 1945

Dear All -

The following is a copy of the wire received Sunday, May 20, which made my spirits soar to the highest peak...and I know it did the same for yours when you heard.

"INTL CD SAMS ORIGINE VIA WUCABLES (74 137 321) EFM MISS EFFIE NELSON
524 BELDEN CHGO WALTER NELSON"

Transcribed this means:

"International Code - Without naming origin - via Western Union Cables

(74) Please don't worry. (137) Hope to see you soon.

(321) Am getting along all right."

The "EFM" stands for "Expeditionary Force Message". Western Union has a long list of various messages, each of which are numbered. The person sending the message may choose three of these messages in sending his wire, and Wallie chose those shown above to let us know he is thinking of us somewhere over there.

My interpretation of it leads me to believe that - he is a (or was) a prisoner of war - and he is wounded.

Depending on the seriousness of the wound, or if he has been a prisoner over 30 days - he is entitled to a furlough, which probably accounts for his saying that he hopes to see us soon.

Each of you may interpret this differently, and you now know as much about it as I do so form your own opinion. It shouldn't be very long until we will get further details.

As soon as the message arrived, I phoned Mother and Nina and they in turn spread the news around. Millie and Chuckie were scheduled to notify Vic and Hank by cable if possible through the Red Cross. I sent a night letter to Eva knowing that she would notify Glenn, etc., etc.

Words could never express our happiness so I won't try to do it here. I'm sure each of us must know how the other feels.

Just...thank God!

* * * *

A long letter arrived from Glenn last night and he is now back in the States after a 72-day trip. Some of you have seen copies of this letter for he sent out copies like I do to save time. Just how long he will be in the States, I don't know. We await further word from the Coast. Tomorrow is Jeane's birthday so they will no doubt be celebrating.

Love and Kisses @

INTER-FAMILY COMMUNICATION---SPECIAL EDITION

May 22, 1945

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Love and Kisses @

June 7, 1945

Dear You:

I owe so many letters that I'd better get started replying or I won't have any friends after the war, but I have things to say to you before any "outsiders" rate a letter.

I know that you know Wallie is home but in case you don't know the details and want them, I shall do my best to explain.....Last Thursday, May 31, a list of liberated prisoners who were expected to arrive at Fort Sheridan that day was published in the American, and just by chance, I happened to go through the list. I nearly fell off my chair when I saw the kid's name. The telephone wires between Racine and Chicago were hot for a little while, and not a half hour after I called Mother, Wallie called her from Fort Sheridan and said he would be home the next day. Sis and I took the train to Racine the next afternoon and Wallie arrived home on the 9:30 North Shore...We had a happy reunion and only wished that it might have been for all of our boys at once. He has 60 days in which to lay around, have fun, and enjoy Mom's cooking, and then he must report to Florida for reassignment. We do not know whether he will be sent overseas again. He looks well and there is little change in his appearance except that he looks a little older.

Lots and lots of things were going on up there over the weekend, and I will do my best to relay the news in the short space of time left to me:

Louis Neibergall is also home for 60 days having arrived a few days before Wallie. No further word of Dick Olander.

Wallie and I spent a little time Saturday night with Hank Barina, Spuds Felbob and their gals. Hank has 2 weeks to go at the hospital, then a few weeks vacation, and into the Army he goes as an M.D. at 24 years of age. He hasn't change a bit. Spuds, as you may know, was discharged in December after 5 yrs & 3 days in the Army. I hardly know him but he is a lot of fun and hope to see him this summer when I'm home on vacation for he has a car; can take us out to the quarry swimming.

Matt Goebel popped in Sunday for a few minutes. He had just gotten in from New York where he had completed his tests for his 2nd Mate's license. He made it, Glenn. He was to go back to N.Y. on Tuesday, had a ship already, and expected to go the the Pacific theater very soon.

I forgot to mention that Bob Goebel was in the Sat. nite party with his wife, having ~~xx~~ flown home from Georgia for the weekend. He reports that Matt is a changed person - that he enjoys life now. I wonder what he means???? I'd like to get to know Matt better for he seems interesting. Bob is a (censored).

Mary T1 was over and told us about her visit in New York with Don. She was there about 11 days and saw Matt while there and also Red & Krueger. Red has put on a little weight and tips the scales at something over 200 now. Don also expects to be shifted to the Pacific.

Our little Jack is going up to Milwaukee next week to take his physical for enlisting in the Navy. Enlistments are supposed to close July 1 in the Navy so he wants to get in before then. For one last fling, he is coming to Chicago next Saturday with his little gal, Miriam, to see a ball game. Last Sat. nite they had their senior prom at school and they had a wonderful time. They were waiting up for Wallie and me in our parlor when we got home at 2 o'clock. This younger generation teh teh...

A letter finally arrived from the Little Fink.....He arrived back in Frisco 5/13, Jeane got a leave and they are taking life easy. His buddy, Pete, got hitched to Jeane's girl friend so they are all honeymooning together. He is scheduled to be looking for a new ship this week.

June 22, 1943

Hello, honey -

There isn't a great deal of news around but am leaving on vacation today and want to get a note off to you-all before I go. When I return in a week I will probably have too much work before me to find time to write then.

Yes, I'm going to Racine and lay in the sun until I'm well toasted. Wallie and Jack will be around to play golf with me, go swimming or whatever is the least effort. The weather seems to be getting back to normal for today the sun is shining (at last) and predictions for the week are warm and warmer.

I haven't had many details on the trip to Milwaukee, but Jack and Wallie went up there last week to inquire about Jack getting into the Merchant Marines. Nora reports that he is 7 pounds underweight, otherwise OK, so he and Wallie are racing to see who can eat the most and gain the most.

Nora came down last Sunday to spend a little time with her big sister Nina. They are kept pretty busy taking care of the dog (Rusky) who has been in the hospital.

A week ago tonight Buddy's Inn threw a big party for their customers to celebrate the second anniversary of their opening. The affair was a huge success... financially and otherwise.

Evelyn writes that the Hike's are well and she is round...and just a week bit worried that she will have twins.

Glenn is again on the high seas...in a faster, newer ship this time so he doesn't expect to be out quite so long. Where he is going is a military secret, of course, but it is possible he will see Vic again. Mind you, I said "possible" not "probable". Now that we have complete control of Okinawa, perhaps supplies will be shipping in there now.

Nothing new from Hank...as far as I know he is still in Gladback. Dick has moved to Kassel and is a little farther from Hank now, but they both are trying to get together. I hope they have a chance to travel around Europe a little and see all the sights. They probably aren't interested in sight-seeing now, but after they have been home for a little while, they will wish they had taken the time to do it. They may never get another chance. Wallie is now wishing he had gone AWOL and had gone to see Hank.

to Europe
There is talk that Uncle Sam will send the wives and ~~xx~~ fiances of army men who will be stationed in Europe for over a year. Now, about it, Hank, would you like to have another honeymoon visiting Vienna and riding in a gondola in the canals, or would you prefer seeing the famous Danube River and surrounding country. Understand this is the most beautiful part of all of Europe...information gotten from someone who has traveled all over Europe many times. Arta's fiancée is stationed at Linz, Austria, right on the Danube, so she is wondering if there is a chance that she will be going over there. If she goes, I'd like to go too....Do you know any men in Linz who are looking for a wife?

Time to go to lunch --

July 9, 1945

Hi, Butch:-

Yes, I got back from my vacation a week ago today, and never was a day longer than that first Monday. If the week hadn't been broken up by a holiday on Wednesday, I doubt whether I would have lasted out the week. This is the 2nd week back and I'm beginning to get back into the swing of things. EAM started his 3-week vacation today which means that the next 21 days will be ~~at~~ semi-vacation for me, too. Of course I still have to get up in the morning.

It was really nice to really relax for a week. (I begin to sound like Hepburn) We got up when it was convenient, tried to keep out of the way of anything that required a bit of effort and soaked up a lot of sunshine. Played golf about four times and took a couple of dips in the Quarry, visited a few friends who wouldn't take "no" to their invitations, and then the week was gone. Once in a while Wallie would stir me up and I'd have to chase him around until he got tired and would leave me alone again...he can be the biggest tease.

Picked up a few bits of news about town which you may be interested in hearing -

Pete Dama expects his discharge very soon. I met his wife Thelma and like her very much...she is nicer than he deserves. There is a "blessed event" on its way.

Gus Fredrickson died after a short illness - heart.

Lennie Pier and wife are building a new home out on Erie Street which is going to be very nice. Mayme and I went out to look it over.

Pete and Mayme have invested in a lot where they may build some day. It is about two blocks north of Goold, and a half a block west of Main. I don't know the name of the street. Choice location.

Mrs. Kozinski was buried while I was home. Poor thing suffered terribly for a long time. Wencil was home but Tony is in So. Africa.

Roy and Dorothy went up North with her sister and Vic for a week leaving Buddy with Mom and Donna in Milwaukee.

Noisy George Hlavka was home for a couple of days and he is so quiet he seems to be a different person. He has one more year in school to get his degree in engineering.

June Dvorak was in town. She has entered school at Madison again. She has her masters in Psychology and now is after an M.D. Her sister Ethel joined the Army Nurse Corps on July 4, and Dagmar has been in the WAVES for a year, station^{ed} now in San Francisco... (Ensign in communications office there).

Had a lengthy letter from Hank with lots of news....He is now stationed in a small town called "Butzback", located near Giessen. They are living in German barracks and things "are really not bad; we work eight hours a day with Sunday mornings off." ... "They set up a fair bar for us and we can get all the cold beer we want". He said he had visited with Dick one weekend at Hamm and they had soaked up a little beer together. Dick has now moved to Kassel, about 100 miles from Hank, so they may be able to get together more often. Hank's company now holds five bronze stars - Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Germany, and these bring his total points up to 23 73. They expect their company to be broken up but when, where, etc., they do not know. Hank said he had heard from Chuck Bartek who says that from India, it looks as if he will be lucky if he gets home for Xmas, 1946. That's tough.

Grace Hansen ? is expecting a baby. Her husband was very seriously hurt in an auto accident and is in the hospital. She really has the bad luck.

July 19, 1943

Hello, dear -

Jack is in New York at Sheepshead Bay just about now for he left here yesterday on the Pacemaker with 14 other volunteers. He called from the LaSalle St. Station just before he left and said he would write and give his address right away....so we all could start writing to him. (hint, hint). He went in as an Apprentice Seaman; he does not know for how long he will train or for what but he has a vague idea that he will be a Deck Hand when he goes to sea. We will know more about this when he has had a chance to learn what it's all about and then write to us.

And so, when Wallie leaves in about two weeks, the House of Nelson will be comprised of women, excluding, of course, Roy, Buddy and Marvin...they aren't at 2044.

Glenn expects to get into Frisco again about August 1, but contrary to previous reports, we do not expect him home. Jeane would be unable to get another leave and of course he wouldn't want to come East without her. In addition, transportation is very very bad, particularly west of Chicago. Since it is such a long trip, it would be silly for them to attempt the trip without the best accommodations.

The war news is optimistic and big things are expected of the Big Three Meeting now being held at Potsdam....I guess we've all got our fingers crossed. So many things seem to be held in abeyance awaiting the outcome of this meeting.

The latest report from the West Coast is that Evelyn and Troy are feeling very fit and are looking ahead a couple of months, or trying to...Will it be a girl, a boy, twins????

EAM is on vacation yet but I've been kept pretty busy by the department heads who take advantage of my "good nature"...

Pete Damm has gotten his discharge and is at home.

I'm enclosing some things that came across my desk that you may be interested in reading.

Nothing new to report from Hank or Vic.

Next month is the month of birthdays - nine of them. How many can you remember?

Girl (arriving late at game): What's the score, Larry?

Escort: Nothing to nothing.

Girl: Oh, goody! Then we haven't missed a thing.

WAC (on first trip to sea): Captain, is this a good ship?

Captain: Why, madam, don't you know this is her maiden voyage?

Dentist: I'm sorry, but I'm all out of gas.

Girl (in chair): Ye Gods! Do dentists pull that old stuff too?

July 30, 1945

Dear Folksies:

The boss just walked in the door after 3 wks vacation, but I'm in hopes I can get the letter written before he gets wound up and puts me to work.

Jackie is settling into the routine at Sheepshead Bay and likes it fine. He has been getting lots of shots and wound up in sick bay for a day (from where he wrote giving his address) but he liked that for it was his week to work and he was getting out of that. He expects to get a liberty in about two weeks and is planning to spend the time in New York. I'm sure glad he wasn't on top of the Empire State Building this weekend when that Bomber crashed into it. That was one of the most horrible freak accidents I've ever heard of. A new address list is enclosed for the old one is pretty out of date.

Had a letter from Hank dated July 6, a little long in coming for it took 21 days when they usually take only 7 to 10 days. He has corrected the information I gave you on his points....he has 72 instead of 73. He says that his company will be broken up soon, the high point men will come home and the balance will be redeployed in other companies for the Pacific or occupation.

I have had no news direct from Glenn, but mother reports that he is due in Frisco right now, in fact he expected to be in by the 27th, so we should be hearing from him very soon.

Wallie's time at home is nearly spent and he plans to leave for Miami Beach in a couple of days. He is due to report there on August 4. There has been no official statement of what the Army will do in regard to men who have been prisoners of war. Some have been sent overseas again and many are being given duty in the States. We have our fingers crossed that Willie will be retained here, of course.

Saturday nite I was on duty at the desk in the Serviceman's Center and this being the first time I worked in this center, I was amazed to learn how extensive the facilities are there for entertaining and helping the service men. They have dormitory service for the fellows who wish to stay there over night, and believe I can say without exaggeration that I signed up 1000 men for cots that night. Another girl did the same. They have dance bands and huge floors for dancing - food - showers - pressing service - button-sewer-oners - writing rooms - private rooms for service men and their families (wife and children) - free tickets to ball games, plays and special events - special quarters for women in service - and many other services too numerous to mention. You may never have occasion to make use of these facilities, but for the fellows who have very little money, a place like this is pretty wonderful. Many of them, especially those coming in from overseas, are amazed that there is no charge.

Millie gave me a picture of Vic taken on Okinawa and he looks very well. His hair has receded a bit more but he looks much the same otherwise....even to the pipe in his mouth. Incidentally, Jackie wants a picture of the family like I made up for the rest of you and I need snapshots of most of you for those I had I've cut up before this. Please send negatives or prints without delay....Jack says no one believes he has such a nice big family.

NELSON FAMILY ADDRESS LIST AS OF JULY 30, 1945

Buddy's Inn (Ambassador 9542)
2714 Peterson Ave.
Chicago 45, Illinois

Roy and Dorothy
1114 Center Street
Racine, Wisconsin

V. J. Nelson C.M. 1/s
87th Naval Construction En.
Division C of Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Mrs. Mildred I.
2006 N. Chatham St.
Racine

Sgt. Henry V. Nelson
518th Ord. Co. (H.M.) F.A.
A.P.O. 350 - c/o Postmaster
New York N.Y.

Mrs. Charlotte
Reschke
Racine

Sgt. & Mrs. T. W. Heikkala
1650 Clay Street
San Francisco 14, Calif.

Miss Effie Nelson (Lincoln 1099)
524 Belden Ave.
Chicago 14, Illinois

or
c/o E.A. Moss' Office (Yards 4200
Swift & Company Ext. 702)
Union Stock Yards
Chicago 9, Illinois

Glenn A. Nelson - ?

Mrs. Geneva Neal Nelson
425 - 28th Street
Waves Barracks 2-A
Oakland 9, California

P.F.C. Walter C. Nelson

John A. Nelson 4514 - 22486
~~E-1 Compartment A~~
U.S. Maritime Service Training Station
Brooklyn, New York on

INTER-FAMILY COMMUNICATION NO. 50

SECOND ANNIVERSARY EDITION

August 10, 1945

Dear One and All:

A special bulletin has just come in on the wire reading as follows

"JAPAN HAS ASKED FOR PEACE RETAINING THE EMPEROR.
PRESIDENT TRUMAN MEETING WITH CABINET AT ONE
O'CLOCK CHICAGO TIME."

When you receive this it will already be old news but thought you would like to know how it first came to us. Rumors were being broadcast this morning on the radio at 8:30 but they were definitely labelled as "unofficial". It is now 11:00 a.m. and everyone is eagerly but calmly waiting further word. Faces are lit up in anticipation of what this may mean and there is a spring in their steps as the people race around here getting their most urgent work out of the way in preparation for a possible holiday.

My thoughts are almost as jumbled as they were when V-E Day was declared, but am doing my best not to get excited for this may go on for some time. Along with these good reports are flashes that Japan has denied asking for peace and so this may be just another flash in the dark.

Today is the second birthday of Marvin/A, our war baby, and a most appropriate day for the Armistice to be declared.

To get back to family news -

Mother received a letter from Glenn indicating that he was shipping out again and believe he left last Saturday, the 4th. That was also the day Wallie reported in Florida. Jackie has moved on to Baltimore but as yet I do not have his address. He did not pass examinations for Radio Operator and says he will be a Seaman.

Latest flash: THE SWEDISH GOV'T HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED THAT JAPAN WILL ACCEPT TERMS OF THE POTSDAM CONFERENCE, AND THEY IN TURN HAVE POSTED THE AMERICAN LEGATION IN STOCKHOLM. *** 1:00 p.m.

Jackie writes that they are on the run from quarter to six in the morning until five at night...poor kid, he must be getting thin. Maybe that's why he needed those seven more pounds. Jack, you haven't said anything about whether you will get a leave to come home when you are finished with your schooling. Can we look forward to seeing you soon? What will happen if the war ends before you go to sea? Will you be compelled to make a certain number of voyages or put in a certain amount of time anyway?

Vic writes that there isn't much to tell us. He is well, puts in nine hours a day and I guess he spends what time is left in writing letters and waiting for ours. Perhaps his laundry takes him a few minutes a night --- To be dainty, he must use Lux for his lingerie every night (or so the ad says). He has hopes of getting home during 1945, and the above news really gives us reason to expect that he will. He asks that I give his regards to everyone.

Hank warns that we will not be hearing from him too often any more. He is tired of writing also, and says that since the war is over in Germany, he will write to the Mrs. but we can get news of him thru her. I don't blame you, Hank, although we do enjoy hearing from you.

Hank has been trying to get a furlough to visit Denmark but it is still off limits to all troops. Maybe he will have better luck before long. His company is being sorted out, the only ones to stay will be those with points above the critical score (whatever that may mean), so he doesn't know what will happen to him. He seems to have a pretty good setup there so I hope he remains where he is if he isn't sent home.

Dick Soens was down to visit him on a three day pass and they had a few beers together...even had a bottle of Rupperts between them. Hank says it is the first American beer he has had. Hank and Dick are 100 miles apart and Hank drove him back to his base.

Shirley has been vacationing for the past two weeks and she spent a few days with me this week. Fran took a trip to St. Louis and Shirley was here while Fran was away so I wouldn't get lonesome. We didn't do a great deal but Shirley got lots of rest sleeping all day while I slaved over a hot typewriter...the boss got back from his vacation. We went shopping and bought ourselves a couple of books. Shirley had her hair cut short and got a permanent for she got tired of fussing with her long hair.

I just learned about it, but Mary has been working for several weeks at the old Chicago Rubber Co. It is in new hands, I'm told, and she has turned into a wage earner. With her first pay day, she had her eyes tested and purchased a set of glasses so there probably wasn't much left that week. Of course, she is going back to school in the fall.

To prevent Mom from getting lonesome, I'm taking a gang up there tonight to spend Saturday and Sunday. Arta whom you all know, Jean, and Alyce. They are kids from the office. We've bought some chickens and are going to stuff ourselves with fried chicken and then lay out in the sun - there will be eight women stretched out in the Nelson backyard Saturday afternoon - various shapes and sizes. After this spree, Arta and I are going to have to start counting the calories again for we are reaching the diet stage. Arta has taken a new job here in the company and she sits all day long. She is working in the Film Division, a new division set up to train salesmen, etc., through the use of movie films. Sounds interesting, doesn't it?

I'll be getting the buzz any minute now so I'd better close first. Love and kisses and all the rest to you, you, you, you, you, and you.

Any later bulletins will be tacked on below.

August 24, 1945

Hi, Folks -

The war is all over except for MacArthur's entry into Japan on Monday and after jubilant celebrations all over the country, people are settling down again. Feel I must mention that Chicago was the most orderly city during the celebration. Of course there is an explanation for it - As soon as the official word was announced, all places of business closed down for 24 hours, with emphasis on the liquor establishments. What little drinking was done was confined to the homes. About a million people gathered downtown but it was just a fun loving crowd.

If I were to repeat reports I've heard on other towns, it would take reams of paper, but since we have family in San Francisco who may have been part of their riotous celebration, this is what went on out there and for proof you can see pictures of some in this week's LIFE magazine. Two lovely blondes used a taxicab for a "bath house", stripped down to nothing and went bathing in the lily pool in the civic square...Traffic of all kinds was completely stopped on Market Street as plate glass windows were broken and merchandise (particularly the kind that comes in bottles) stolen from the stores. At the WAVES' barracks, the fun seemed to be limited to pillow fights but the feathers were really flying. Evelyn says Troy went downtown at ten p.m. "just to see" and was home at 11:30 and had lost his overseas cap. Is that a good omen? Everyone has been waiting for this day for a long time so I guess we can't blame them for cutting loose. We all had two days holiday to top it off.

It is wonderful to know that there will be no more fighting and killing, but we have a tremendous job ahead of us which many people will not be willing to accept. Here's hoping that Truman and his aides will steer on the right road.

Had a letter from Evelyn this week, the first one in ages. She reports that all is well and that October 5th is the day to which we can look forward. Some of their friends had a shower on her and helped to outfit the ~~xxx~~ hair apparent. (Troy: What did you know all the time???)

Jackie has been in the hospital again, this time in Baltimore. He wrote that he felt fine except for a sore throat and that he was having tonsil trouble. I telephoned him Monday nite to see if he was getting along all right and he said he was OK in a voice that was hardly understandable. He said that that was because he had been asleep.

He asked me to relay a message to Glenn - "Tell him I want to hear from him soon."

Chuckie had an operation last Wednesday (Aug. 15) and Mom reports that she is getting along very well.

Mom is coming down tonight for the weekend. I got a chicken so we're going to make parsley gravy and biscuits. Did I say I was going on a diet? June Dvorak spent last weekend with me and we had a very nice time. Attended the Music Festival Saturday nite and saw the last concert for this season at Grant Park. June is on a month's vacation prior to going back to school to earn her degree in medicine. She is definitely a career girl.

Fran and I did a little celebrating this week as her birthday was the day after mine. We've been going to bed early the last couple of nights to make up sleep....but it was fun!

Now that the war has ended, everyone has been trying to determine when the boys would get home. According to the point system as I understand them, Hank should be coming to the States soon. In the three months since the Army first announced their plan, Hank has accumulated three more points for a total of 75, and a recent press release said that men with 75 points would be returned to the States although they might not be discharged immediately. Hank says that his company is being broken up and that they are taking in a lot of high point men. Millie heard on the radio that the 518th was being sent home, so if Hank isn't transferred out of the company in the meantime, he may arrive one of these days.

The Navy's system stinks - and there is plenty of talk about changes to be made. Vic has a total of 40....16 for his age, 10 for dependents, and 14 for 28 months of service....and he needs 45 for a discharge. Have I figured this right, Vic? If the scuttlebutt bears any weight, some points will soon be given for overseas and combat and this means Vic will be home at least this year. With only 5 points to go he will ~~surely~~ get that many for all the combat he has seen.

Millie writes that he has been assigned to an M P unit and is stationed at Fort Myer, Va. I heard indirectly that he may be a train man and travel between Washington and ?. (Maybe I can fill this in when I have read the letter Nina received. His new address is:

P.F.C. Walter C. Nelson
2507 S. R. U.
Fort Myer, Virginia

Grant quit his job with Lincoln Ice and has been helping Bud and Nina for the past couple of weeks. Nina closed the kitchen the 15th for two weeks to get a rest and she and Bud have both been trying to take it easy.

Labor Day is nearly here....It has been such a short summer. The weather is pretty cool around here most of the time. The nights have been like Frisco weather and the days plenty cool too.

Love & kisses -

efie

Chicago, Illinois
April 9

The Associated Press
50 Rockefeller Plaza
New York City

The enclosed letter contains an urgent message for Mr. Sid Feder, Associated Press correspondent on the Italian front. Will you please forward the letter to him without delay?

Thank you.

324 Belden Avenue
Chicago 14
Monday - April 9

Dear Sid:

You can't imagine the thrill I felt when going through the Trib. this morning. Your name fairly leapt at me as if it had been printed in big red letters, and at first I could hardly believe my eyes. Congratulations on your new assignment. If you were here I'd give you a great big kiss.

I'm really very happy about it, Sid, because I believe you really had a yen to do work like this and your wish is coming true. But honestly, I'm not only happy for you but because it seems like an answer to my prayers to find that you are in Italy.

You see, Sid, we have just received word that one of my brothers is missing in action in the Italian theater, and I wonder if you are in a position to try and get some details for us. Heaven only knows how long we may have to wait before we will hear anything further, although possibly we will hear something definite in a very short time.

The wire merely stated that Wallie has been missing since March 19. There have been practically no reports in the newspapers about action over there so we haven't been able to piece together any kind of a story. Now that you are over there perhaps the Italian front will get some well-deserved publicity.

Wallie's last address from a letter written three days before he was reported missing was:

P.F.C. Walter C. Nelson, 15109164
Co. I - 133 Infantry - 34th Infantry Div.
A.P.O. 34 - c/o Postmaster New York City

If there is anything that you can dig up, I can't tell you how grateful I'd be.

The office of The A.P. here in Chicago tells me that the only way to address this letter to you is to send it to the New York offices and ask them to forward it, so how or when you will receive this, I don't know. Here's hoping it will be soon.

As you probably know, your friend Lt. May has left Chicago and reported for duty in the East. Mary Ellen returned from Florida but I haven't heard anything further from her. She was very ill and I believe she went back home. Arta is just the same and she asked me to say hello sending her best wishes. She is proud of you, too.

My brother Glenn is now at sea in the Pacific (he is the brother you met), but after reporting for duty in Frisco the first of the year, he had shore duty for two months, and during the time he was stationed there he found himself a wife - yes, his own wife. He fell madly in love with a little WAVE. "Ain't love grand?" He is a swell kid and I only hope he picked the right kind of a girl.

How are you feeling now that you have left Great Lakes? Do you still carry the little pills - the brown ones and the white ones? I do hope that you are better and that you don't have too much difficulty locating Scotch or Southern Comfort over there.

The very best wishes to you, Sid, and good luck -

September 12, 1945

HOME VIC HANK EVA GLENN WALLIE JACK -

I could get bounced for this letter-writing during office hours - but so much news has accumulated that I must get everybody informed before I can work with a clear mind again...feeble excuse, isn't it?

Jackie is on his way to San Francisco via the waterways. He called Mom one night last week and said he would be shipping out on Tuesday (yesterday) and would travel through the Panama Canal and then up the coast to Frisco where he has hopes of meeting Glenn. It will probably take a month to make the trip so he should get there soon after the arrival of Junior. Mom got a note from him yesterday written Saturday nite in which he said that he and Wallie were going to get together that night. It seems Jack just found out Wallie was in Virginia for Jack's mail was held up while he was in the hospital. Before they finally made connections, Jack had received his shipping orders. From what he writes of his experiences, Jack has done a pretty good job of exploring New York City. He had several weekends to spend there.

Haven't heard anything new from Wallie, but Mom said she had a letter and he said something about "looking forward" to another year in the Army. That's tough!

Hank writes more optimistically...he has hopes of getting home before long. He said they may leave there during October or the first part of November and that means that he could be here for Christmas. Hank points out that he has a new A.P.C. # 758, and he is now a part of the 7th Army. Dick has been moved to Austria and is in a new outfit. That part of Europe is about the most beautiful of all. There are lots of lakes and they are at the foot of the Alps. It sounds like a wonderful place to be located for a while. Chuckie is getting along well after her operation but will have to take it easy for a little while.

Mom had a long letter from Glenn written Aug. 25. He expects to be back in the states about the 15th of this month and will try to arrange to stay here and study for his 2nd Mate's license. However they do not plan a trip East as yet. I had a letter from Jean and she too is looking forward to a discharge. She has 21 points and thinks she may be discharged sometime in October. Would you like to hear the cute story she relayed to me?

A bashful boy took his girl friend out and he wanted to say something to make her like him. He thinks for a while and finally says, "You sure do look cute tonight".

She: "I'm sorry I can't return the compliment."

He: "You could if you had ~~XXX~~ lied like I did."

Wallie came down last Saturday and stayed until Sunday with me, and we went shopping and all the other things girls like to do. It rained so we ran in and out of stores between showers. I kept her out late Saturday night and got her up in time for church Sunday. We didn't do anything exciting but I think she enjoyed the change. Mom and the girls arranged to look after the babies while she was here. News from Vic is that he looks for his name on the bulletin board every day for the names of those to be sent home are posted there. He has been over there for 2 years and in addition, he has enough points for discharge now that they are awarding points for overseas duty. Isn't that wonderful?

Evelyn and Troy report that Troy has 42 points, and will probably be in the Army for another 3 years. Since he will soon be a family man and has spent so many months in already, he may get a discharge on those two counts later on in the program. They have announced that if the expected heir is a boy, his name will be Troy Thomas (Thomas for Troy's twin brother who lost his life in Europe); if a girl, she will be Mary Ann. They both rate my approval in case they are interested.

Mom is talking about taking a trip to Denmark next spring to see her Mother....if all goes well. It sounds wonderful to me, and hope things work out that way.

Did I tell you about my most recent trip? Swift & Company had me on their traveling pay roll for 3 days. We have come out with a new cleanser - SWIFT'S CLEANSER - it is my boss' "baby" and we've been breaking out necks to make everything go right. It is being packaged in cans with 3 different color labels, red, blue and green, and my job was to visit Peoria, and give this cleanser away for free, and help to determine which, if any, color the housewives liked the best. We drove down on Sunday and returned Wednesday. It was quite an experience, and now I know why the men sweat over their expense accounts when they return from trips....they are trying to hide the cost of a bottle of beer in their charge for dinner, etc.

Nothing more to report and I must get back on the job.

Nina asks me to send you all her love and says she will get around to writing soon. They are doing well out there. Some of you have met Wallie who spent a great deal of time there. He worked for Douglas Aircraft and when the war ended, so did his job. They have made arrangements to open the place at 8:00 in the morning instead of at noon as heretofore, and have put Wallie in charge for the first shift. Nina and Bud show up late in the afternoon and take over for the evening. Wallie is well known and well liked by all their customers, and everyone seems pleased with the arrangement. Nina says it is wonderful having the few extra hours a day.

So long for now -

Wallie's new address: P.F.C. W.C.N.
300 M. P. Co.
Fort Myer, Virginia

September 27, 1945

HOME - VIC - HANK - EV - GLENN - WALLIE - JACK

Tomorrow morning Mom will be getting off the train at Oakland, will board the ferry for San Francisco, and will begin what will be the first vacation she has had in a long long time. Nina, Bud and I put her on the train here last night, and we were as excited as she was. Her reservation did not come through until after four o'clock and she was to leave at six, so we were plenty doubtful that she would be leaving. However, my good friends her/hat Swift's came through, and she is sharing a bedroom with another young woman. The accommodations on the train (City of San Francisco) are luxurious and in addition it is a fast train and she will cut about 21 hours off the usual time the trip requires.

Mom will spend about three weeks out there, and maybe more. Shortly after she arrives there Evelyn will be going to the hospital, and of course she will stay for a while after Ev gets home with the baby.

October is going to be a big month for us it seems. Not only a new baby but possibly Hank and Vic will be home from overseas. Chuckie reports that Hank is on his way to France, and if he doesn't have to wait long for a ship, he should be home this next month. Vic wrote that he might leave at any time, and he may be with the 3rd Fleet which is now on its way to the States.

Just where Jackie is right now, I cannot estimate, but at least he is in a warm climate. In case you don't know, he left New York for Panama, and from there will head up the West coast to Frisco. There will be a gathering of the clan out there with Mom, Eva, Glenn, Jack and possibly Vic. Incidentally, Jack, did you go South fast enough to run into the hurricane off the coast of Florida? We read in the papers how terrible it was, and as it broke a few days after you left port, I figured you might have found yourself in the midst of it. What an initiation that would be.

Tomorrow is Troy's birthday and I planned to get this letter off so he would get it in time to know that I wish him many happy returns, but somehow I slipped up. Wouldn't it be nice if Junior arrived on his birthday?

Fran's second brother got home from Europe last week and she is at home in Detroit visiting with him now. I shall be alone until Sunday night, and I don't like it...no one to talk with.

Maybe you are wondering how things are going up at 2044 with Mom away. The three girls are keeping house. I guess it goes about like this - Shirly is the breadwinner, Mary the cook, and Nora the maid. I'm sure they will get along very well and it will be good training and experience for them. If something comes up they can't handle, there are many friends who will be glad to help them not to mention the family.

Love & Kisses -

INTER-FAMILY COMMUNIQUE NO. 54

October 10, 1945

HOME - VIC - HANK - EVE - GLENN - WALLIE - JACK

There has been so little news to report that these communiques are being issued less often. Trying to get reports from the gang is as hard as pulling teeth. I know what you are saying - there isn't anything new and we're tired of writing letters. OK, but if you get bored reading this letter, don't hold ag it against me.

Had a letter from Evelyn written the 5th. She had been downtown shopping and riding around on the cable cars. Imagine that - in her condition on the very day she is supposed to be going to the hospital. The stork probably called while she was out and couldn't find her so he had to postpone his visit.

A friend of Troy and Evelyn has loaned them a car several times so they have been able to drive Mom around to see some of the sights. The weather out there has been beautiful and Mom loves it.

Evelyn reports that Glenn got his 2nd Mate's License after taking exams all last week. Congratulations, Little Pink. Little man, what now?

I talked to the girls at home Saturday and they are getting along very well. As I have had no news of Hank or Vic, asked them if they knew what was happening. Millie had received a letter written from Okinawa dated the 28th so Vic is not with the 3rd Fleet movement. He didn't say that they had any definite word as to when they would be leaving. Hank is apparently on his way but we are saying that because we haven't heard anything from him. Understand there is a lot of delay at the port cities waiting for ships to transport the troops home. Have heard of cases where the fellows waited as long as 8 weeks at La Havre, so it may still be some time before Hank gets here. Arta's brother is another GI waiting for his ship to come in.

Jack should be getting into Frisco any day.

It has definitely been announced that 2-year Army men will be discharged by March of next year. For Wallie this means he won't have more than 6 months more of Army life and he will be back in school and working hard a year from now. Wallie is still bumming around Washington...I say bumming because the situation with him is SNAFU. The Army gave him a promotion ...How many of you noticed he is now a Corporal?... so now they aren't paying him...the title is supposed to be enough, I guess. This ruling will also make a free man of Troy - except for ball and chain - by next spring. They'd better start deciding where they are going to settle down.

Nothing much is happening around here. We've started bowling again and I'm holding my average of last year.

Must quit - I hear my master's voice - (the buzzer)
Love,

October 29, 1945

Hello Everybody -

All trains lead to Racine....Mom is getting aboard one tonight headed for home, but understand it is a slow one and she will arrive on Thursday. As that train is usually late and seldom gets in until late afternoon, perhaps I can get off at noon, meet her, and go along to Racine to see Vic who is arriving there today. By now you all know that he got in to Portland, Oregon, on the 19th, arrived at Grate Great Lakes this past Friday, and he is getting out of there today. I expect he will have his discharge and be free of all military life when he leaves there today, but none of my information is first hand.

Talked to Shirley yesterday and she also reported that Chuckie had heard from Hank that he is scheduled to march in the Armistice Day Parade in New York. That is only 2 weeks away so he should surely be home three weeks from now - at least in time for Thanksgiving. Dick Soens is also on his way home.

Glenn has probably shipped out by now for he was assigned to another ship and expected to leave at any time. Jean is expecting her discharge and will probably go home when Glenn ships out. Jack also has a ship which is going to dry dock for repairs and that means he will be around Frisco and Oakland for some time. As I understand it, he is on duty 8 hours a day and the rest of the time is his own so he is able to spend quite a bit of time with the Heiks.

Mom wrote that Troy is anxious to bring Jr. East and show him to all of us, and it may not be long for he will soon be released from the Army. Well, Troy, you will find a lot of people anxiously waiting to see him, too. If Mom hasn't got some pictures of him, she had better turn about and return to Frisco. She had two rolls of film and my camera with her with explicit instructions!!

Wallie is a very busy fellow, but thanks to a little USO hostess, we have word that he is OK. She wrote describing herself as a ~~skunk~~ "Comfortable pulchritudinous bundle of charm, doing her best for the war effort by being hospitable (bordering on flirtatious) to all wolf-like GI's who come her way". She also informs us that Wallie has changed his occupation - "He's now a driver, doing everything for the war effort by escorting AWOL's, drunks and other forms of violators of military law to the cell block." This could mean that he drives a Jeep, I suppose, but it might also mean he is like a slave-driver, walking along behind some covering chained GI's with a cat-o'-nine-tails. How about an explanation, Butch?

Nina is well but keeping pretty busy for Bud has a strep throat and must remain in bed. I talked to him the other day and he sounded a bit husky, but will soon be OK again.

Yesterday was a beautiful day in Chicago with temperatures rising to 75° to set a record. Fran and I did our washing and hung it out on the line...the first time I've done that in years. Otherwise life in Chicago is routine. Arta's brother Don got home for good this weekend.

Do any of you have any definite plans for the holidays? Wish you would let us know if you have.

Lovingly,

INTER-FAMILY COMMUNICATION NO. 56

November 7, 1945

Hello -

Another week has rolled around since I last wrote and the excitement of the homecomings is quieting down. Mother arrived safe and sound last Thursday p.m. after a most enjoyable visit with you kids in California. She looks so well and rested that you must have been like a tonic to her. The boss gave me the afternoon off when she arrived so I went with her to Racine, and you can imagine the babble as we tried to bring each other up to date on events. The new grandson gets top billing...he is wonderful!! Yes, Junior has won all their hearts and after hearing all about him, am mighty anxious to see him. Mom says she has some pictures of him to be developed and if they are good, you will also get one. Evelyn is getting along all right, Mom reports, but she is weak and must be very careful. (Now take it easy, Eva...It sounds like Junior is big enough to walk already so don't go trundling him about). Jean was being discharged the day Mom left...Glenn had not shipped out and neither had Jack for a strike was holding up necessary repairs to their ships.

Vic is home. Those three words are the climax of almost three years of working, waiting, worrying....And now that he is home it is just as if he were never gone. It seemed so natural to drop over to see them and find him there. You probably have a million questions to ask about him and I shall try to anticipate a few of them ~~but~~ by telling you that he is a civilian again...he is in good health.... he has lots of stories to tell about the gruesome life they lived out there in the Pacific...he is going to take a rest and get acquainted with his babies before announcing any plans. But his babies know him and it won't take them long to find out he would stand on his head for them if they ask him to. Little Evelyn actually seemed to remember him, and of course Marvin knew his "old man" when he saw him. I wish I could describe what a happy little family they are and how wonderful it was to see the circle complete again.

Chuckie said Hank was scheduled to ship home together with the 68th Infantry and that we should watch for an announcement of their shipping date in the papers. That very night I found such an announcement which said the 68th was sailing on Nov. 1, so Hank will come bouncing in any time, I guess. The report I gave you about the Armistice Day Parade in N.Y. was only a rumor so he may be home sooner than indicated.

It's been a busy week for yours truly...Lots of fun. Saw the play "Anna Lucasta" Friday nite, and enjoyed it after I got accustomed to the accents...the cast is made up of negroes. Sunday nite we went to the Ice Follies and it was the best yet. Besides these big events in my young life, there have been guests from out of town to kibitz with, bowling, etc., until right now I feel that if I don't get a good night of sleep soon I'll be too numb to appreciate anything. Just as usual, everything happens in one week, and the next week will probably be routine and very dull in contrast. Am taking a couple of days vacation starting tomorrow and if my plans work out, will spend them sewing myself a new coat and suit...of course, if someone suggests something that sounds more interesting, well...

INTER-FAMILY COMMUNIQUE

December 5, 1945

My dear folks -

As a matter of record only, for you all know by now, Hank arrived back in Racine November 17...a free man. That precious piece of paper with DISCHARGE written on it in big black letters was presented to him at Camp McCoy. We got together at home on Thanksgiving Day for a few hours and am glad to report he looks tops. He and Vic fit into the picture again as if they had never been away, and I hope the grim memories they may have will soon fade and become buried in happiness here at home.

At this very moment Troy may be holding the same important document for he is scheduled to get his discharge this week. Shortly thereafter, probably about the middle of the month, our California folks will head back thisaway. Evelyn and Troy would like to look over the prospects of living in Racine. It sure will be swell seeing them again, and can hardly wait to see Jr., but suffering from a bad cold as I am just now, it is hard for me to understand why they will give up that land of sunshine just now. By George, I'd stay out there until Spring if it were me...Then if they couldn't find anywhere else to live, they could pitch a tent on the lake front.

Glenn and Jean may spend Christmas here in the middle west also. This report is unconfirmed by them, however.

Jackie is on his way to France hoping to return to the States sometime in March. He will be anxiously waiting for mail and so I repeat his address:

John Nelson
S.S. John McDonogh
c/o Postmaster
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ New York, N.Y.

Waterman SS Company

He has taken a roundabout trip - left Frisco for Seattle, from there to Vancouver, Canada, and thence to the Panama Canal and France. It will be a long trip.

Wallie is hoping to be discharged in February. Hope it will be in time to get into the winter term at school. He is shopping around for clothes - civvies. Keep your eyes open for white shirts for him. Glenn - if you are able to get any through some service you may have, please let me know pronto. Would like to send some Christmas gifts of white shirts and if you can get them, I'll be ever grateful.

Newsnotes: Hank went deer hunting with Harold and since we did not get an invite to a venison dinner, presume he didn't get close to one.

So long for tonite - will try to complete this tomorrow.....

ADDRESS LIST AS OF NOVEMBER 14, 1945

Mr. & Mrs. V. J. Nelson
2006 N. Chatham Street
Racine, Wisconsin

Corporal Walter C. Nelson
300 M. P. Co.
Fort Myer, Virginia

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Nelson
1114 Center Street
Racine, Wisconsin

Glenn, Jean and Jack
c/o Heikkala's

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Nelson
1105 Reschke
Racine, Wisconsin

Miss Effie Nelson
524 Belden Avenue
Chicago 14, Illinois - Lincoln 1099

Sgt. & Mrs. P. W. Heikkala
2242 Sacramento Street
Berkeley 2, California

Mr. & Mrs. B. Kramer
2714 Peterson Avenue
Chicago 45, Illinois - Ambassador 9542 or 1724

Mrs. Olaf Nelson
2044 Superior Street
Racine, Wisconsin - Jackson 7884-R

If the above are incorrect or if any changes occur, please
report to your correspondent....and if your telephone
number is not given, please forward that too.

EW

January 4, 1946

Dear Glenn & Jackie:

Imagine my surprise when I looked into my file today to find there my letter begun December 5, never finished and never mailed. I know I have written to you both since then and you no doubt have all that news by now.

The holidays came and went, and so many things happened that to repeat them all would take days. Highlights of the days were about as follows:

Evelyn, Troy and Jr. arrived home the 21st of December on a train that was 22 hours late. Fortunately, they had sleeping accommodations that were fairly comfortable so they survived the trip very well, and Evelyn says Jr. is a wonderful traveler. You two have both enjoyed his company so I needn't tell you how sweet and lovable a baby he is, but to prove to you how much I thought of him...every morning I was home, regardless of the hour I get to bed, when he wanted food in the wee hour of 6 a.m., yours truly would help Evelyn feed him, and brother, that's devotion! Of course, I'd turn over and go back to sleep with him....

Troy was up in Michigan for the week while I was at home, and as he didn't get back until after I returned to Chgo, I didn't have the privilege of shaking the hand of another civilian. He and Evelyn have made their plans to stay in Racine and if things work out he will probably become a carpenter apprentice.

We had the usual get-together Christmas Eve, and we missed you two. Even Dick Soens was there. The kids went to church and when they returned the gifts were passed around and it was so much fun watching the little ones. As usual, they were the life of the party. Millie's kids were as noisy and excited as anyone, and I couldn't help thinking of the Christmas four years ago when Evelyn was a tiny baby..... Mother received some lovely things and the girls had a nice Christmas too. I enjoyed myself immensely. Just the joy in being together again was enough for me. Although Nina and Bud could not come up Christmas Eve, they drove up the next day and spent some time with us.

Enjoyed your letter, Glenn, and was happy to know you could spend the holidays with Jeane. Sorry Pete couldn't have been there too. The news of Shirley and "Ubo" was regrettable...also Alice's experience. Better luck next time... All your friends here send their regards. Arta - not married yet but Dick is on his way to the States so it may be anytime. Mr. Sutton - the same old boy. RWR and EAM inquire about you occasionally and are glad to know you are getting along. What did you name the Scottie? They sure are adorable dogs, and I'm sure Jeane will find him lots of company when you are away. Was pleased to hear of your plans and hope everything works out just so. Your invitation to visit you out there will surely be accepted tho' probably not for some time yet. Am thinking, but only tentatively, of a trip West next summer...if - I can get extra time from the office,...June can go along,...I have the money,...I get a car. Too many "ifs"...forget it.